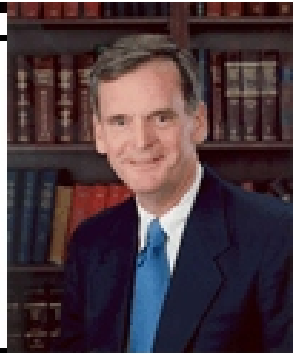

NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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GREGG MAKES DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY ACCOUNTABLE FOR FIRST RESPONDER FUNDING

Senator adds amendment to Supplemental Spending bill requiring report to Congress

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, and a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, yesterday successfully included an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2003 war supplemental to ensure that first responder funding is spent in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The supplemental spending bill, which passed the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday and is slated for floor debate starting this morning, includes \$2 billion in formula grants to states for anti-terrorism initiatives.

The amendment requires the Department of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a report on the distribution of the federal assistance to, and within, states in support of first responder preparedness and response activities to possible acts of terrorism. In the report, the Department must detail how the funds are distributed in relation to assessed threats, vulnerabilities and risks to each state and local government, as well as any proposed changes to the current formula used to distribute the funds.

Senator Gregg stated, "One of the most critical roles the federal government can play in shoring up our homeland security and preventing future terrorist attacks is to arm states and localities with adequate funding to ensure that first responders are ready. Our first responders, the men and women of law enforcement, fire, EMTs and other groups, really do an outstanding job of putting their lives on the line every day for their communities. My amendment, approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday afternoon, will make sure that the funding doled out by the Department of Homeland Security makes it to the local level in the most appropriate manner possible."

The Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act included \$600 million in formula grants to states for anti-terrorism efforts. In addition to the \$2 billion for such efforts currently in the Senate and House versions of the war supplemental, the President has requested another \$3.5 billion in first responder funding in his Fiscal Year 2004 budget request.

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